

Surface Lands Managed by The Department of the Interior

Mission

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

History

Established in 1849, Interior is the Nation's principal Federal conservation agency.

Interior manages many of the Nation's special natural, cultural, and historic places, conserves lands and waters, protects cultural legacies, and keeps the Nation's history alive. Interior manages parks, refuges, the National Landscape and Conservation

System, and other public lands and recreation areas for public enjoyment; provides access to many of the Nation's natural resources; increases scientific knowledge; and, fulfills America's trust and other responsibilities to native peoples. Interior also provides hydropower to the Western States. It delivers water to over 31 million citizens through management of 479 dams and 348 reservoirs.

A Department for Domestic Concern was considered by the First United States Congress in 1789, but those duties were initially placed in the Department of State. The proposal continued to percolate for a half-century. The 1846–1848 Mexican-American War gave the proposal new energy as the responsibilities of the Federal government grew. President Polk's Secretary of the Treasury, Robert J. Walker, became a vocal champion for creating a new department.

In 1848, Walker stated in his annual report that several Federal offices were placed in Departments with which they had little in common: the General Land Office in the Department of the Treasury; the Indian Affairs Office residing in the Department of War; and the Patent Office in the State Department. He proposed that all should be brought together in a new Department of the Interior.

A bill authorizing Interior's creation passed the House of Representatives on February 15, 1849, and was adopted by the Senate in just over two weeks. The Department was established on March 3, 1849, the eve of President Zachary Taylor's inauguration, when the Senate voted 31 to 25 to create the Department.

Today, Interior manages about one-fifth of America's land, as shown on the previous page, and is made up of Departmental Offices and eight Bureaus with a broad range of responsibilities.

Defining Interior's Goals

The Department's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007–2012 provides the framework for activities in eight bureaus and multiple offices in 2009. The Strategic Plan is the guide by which we gauge our success in achieving performance results.

The combined Mission Areas contain 14 End Outcome Goals that the department, through its offices and Bureaus, works to accomplish.

The existing goals and measures are under review as the Department updates the current Strategic Plan. The goals and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) presented in the following section may change in future reports based on that review. DOI also anticipates reporting on the Department-specific high-priority performance goals that the Administration is now developing.

DOI'S MISSION AREAS

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Protect the Nation's natural, cultural and heritage resources

- Improve the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources that are Interior managed or influenced, consistent with obligations and State law regarding the allocation and use of water
- Sustain biological communities on Interior managed and influenced lands and waters, consistent with obligations and State law regarding the allocation and use of water
- Protect cultural and natural heritage resources
- ► Improve the understanding of national ecosystems and resources through integrated interdisciplinary assessment

RESOURCE USE

Improve resource management to assure responsible use and sustain a dynamic economy

- Manage or influence resource use to enhance public benefit, promote responsible development, and economic value
- Deliver water consistent with applicable state and Federal law, in an environmentally responsible and cost-efficient manner
- Improve the understanding of energy and mineral resources to promote responsible use and sustain the Nation's dynamic economy

RECREATION

Improve recreation opportunities for America

- ► Improve the quality and diversity of recreation experiences and visitor enjoyment on Interior lands
- Expand seamless recreation opportunities with partners

SERVING COMMUNITIES

Improve protection of lives, property, and assets, advance the use of scientific knowledge, and improve the quality of life for communities we serve

- ▶ Improve protection of lives, resources, and property
- Improve understanding, prediction, and monitoring of natural hazards to inform decisions by civil authorities and the public to plan for, manage, and mitigate the effects of hazard events on people and property
- Fulfill Indian fiduciary trust responsibilities
- Advance quality communities for Tribes and Alaska Natives
- Increase economic self-sufficiency of insular areas

DOI Bureaus

Each Interior Bureau has discrete responsibilities.



Fish and Wildlife Service

- Manages the 96 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System primarily for the benefit of fish and wildlife
- Protects and conserves:
 - Migratory birds
 - > Threatened and endangered species
 - Certain marine mammals
 - > Fish
- Hosts about 38 million visitors annually at 548 refuges and 37 wetland management districts



Bureau of Land Management

- Manages the National Landscape Conservation System
- Manages and conserves resources for multiple use and sustained yield on approximately 253 million acres of public land, including the following:
 - Energy and mineral exploration and production

 - Domestic livestock grazing
 - Outdoor recreation
 - Rights-of-way

 - Resource protection at sites of natural scenic, scientific, and historical value



Indian Affairs

- ► Fulfills Indian trust responsibilities
- Promotes self-determination on behalf of more than 562 Federally recognized Indian Tribes
- Provide education, law enforcement, and other social services



Minerals Management Service

- Manages access to the energy resources of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to help meet our country's energy needs
- Administers just over 7,600 active mineral leases on approximately 41.2 million OCS acres
- Oversees 15 percent of the natural gas and 27 percent of the oil produced domestically
- Collects, accounts for, substantiates, and disburses custodial mineral revenues from Federal and Indian mineral leases
- Oversees lease and grant issuance for offshore renewable energy projects



Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

- Protects the environment during coal mining
- ► Ensures that the land is reclaimed afterwards
- Mitigates the effects of past mining by pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mine lands



National Park Service

- Maintains a network of 391 natural, cultural, and recreational sites for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people
- Provides technical and financial assistance to state and local natural and cultural resource sites
- Provides respite and outdoor recreation to over 275 million annual park visitors



U.S. Geological Survey

- Provides reliable scientific information in geography, geology, hydrology, and biology to inform effective decisionmaking and planning
- Brings a range of earth and life science disciplines to bear on problems
- Produces information to increase understanding of natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and landslides
- Conducts research on oil, gas and alternative energy potential, production, consumption, and environmental effects



Bureau of Reclamation

- Largest supplier and manager of water in the seventeen Western States
- Maintains 479 dams and 348 reservoirs
- ▶ Delivers water to one in every five western farmers and over 31 million people
- America's second largest producer of hydroelectric power

Assessing Our Performance

The following 25 select performance measures are the Department's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), formerly Representative Performance Measures. The KPIs were chosen from Interior's Strategic Plan, based on their relatively broad scope, to provide a summary level assessment of yearly progress. Interior also uses this information to identify strategies for future performance improvement and allow executive level oversight of Departmentwide efforts.

Each KPI is plotted through 2009 with a projection into the next fiscal year, along with estimated cost for FY 2010. Actual costs (expenses) are reflected for FY 2006 through FY 2009 with a projected cost for FY 2010. Trend lines have been added to the KPI graphs so that the relationship between performance and associated cost is more readily apparent. The following section presents a summary of Interior's performance for FY 2009 in each Mission Area.